REGULAR MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

OCTOBER 19, 2009

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:00 P.M.

GOOD & WELFARE

Sewer Project

Marc Baillargeon of 32 Pacheco Drive hoped the Council members

would consider all the options presented regarding the sewer

assessment and would reach a fair decision.

Carol Nasuti of Lincoln Drive stated the Right Sewers group asked

people to attend this evening's meeting because they had heard that

people in town do not care about the project anymore and that the

Council was not going to follow through with what was voted on at

the July 13th meeting, which was to stop the project by not going

forward with Phases II and III, perform a comprehensive needs

assessment by reevaluating areas in need, reassess design elements

i.e. gravity vs. grinder pumps, apply and capture federal and state

funding to offset the overall costs and then move forward when the

economic climate improves.

Robert Thurber of 20 Brian Avenue asked that the numbers that are

discussed tonight be given and explained in a manner that the

audience can understand.

Recycling

Ernest Alter of 600 Victory Highway felt the new program of not having trash picked up unless there is a recycling bin out also is unreasonable.

Mrs. Hamilton responded this program is basically the same as before but residents are being asked to think about recycling more to reduce the amount of trash collected in an effort to lower fees. She realizes there are some extenuating circumstances, especially for the elderly.

Roger Bernier of Branch Village claimed he went to the highway barn to pick up a new recycling bin and was told it would cost \$7.00. He felt this was unfair because the trash collectors throw the bins around.

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Dr. Benoit, Mr. Biron, Mr. Leclerc, Mr. Zwolenski and Mr. Lovett. Town Administrator Hamilton and Town Solicitor Nadeau were also in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve the minutes of September 21 and October 5, 2009.

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PAYMENT OF BILLS

Monthly Bills

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve payment of the following: General Fund - \$349,466.16; Sewer - \$10,285.66; Water - \$48,459.27; Wire Transfer School Department - \$1,638,675.00; and Wire Transfer Fire Department - \$200,146.67 for a total of \$2,247,032.76.

Sewer Project Pay Requests/Change Orders

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve payment to James J. Geremia & Associates, Inc. for Invoice #13 for Design Services for Areas 2 and 3 in the amount of \$6,936.74 based upon the recommendation of the Sewer Commission and the review and consent of the Finance Director.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve payment to James J. Geremia & Associates, Inc. for Phase IA Construction Administration & Resident Inspection Services, Invoice #13, in the amount of \$3,755.97 based upon the recommendation of the Sewer Commission and review and consent of the Finance Director.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve payment to James J. Geremia & Associates, Inc. for Phase IB Construction Administration & Resident Inspection Services, Invoice #13, in the amount of \$10,227.72 based upon the recommendation of the Sewer Commission and the review and consent of the Finance Director.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve payment to John Rocchio Corporation for Payment Request No. 13 for Phase IA Construction Services in the amount of \$9,675.16 based upon the recommendation of the Sewer Commission and the review and consent of the Finance Director.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve John Rocchio Corporation's Balancing Change Order No. 3 for Phase IA for a credit of \$264,476.56 which includes a \$25,000 contingency allowance that will be itemized at the next meeting.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote to approve Boyle & Fogarty Construction Co. Inc.'s Balancing Change Order No. 1 for Phase IB for a credit of \$364,905.72.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Lovett explained that the two items on the agenda, payments to Gilbane Building Company and Eagle Cornice Roofing, had already been approved at the last meeting.

AGREEMENT FOR MIGRATION OF WEBSITE

Upon questioning by Mr. Biron, Mr. James McAssey of Brave River Solutions explained the company's hourly rates are \$85.00 per hour for a junior developer, \$95.00 per hour for a standard developer and \$105.00 for a senior developer.

Mr. Biron also questioned repayment of out of pocket expenses for travel and late charges for non-payment of invoices within 30 days.

Mr. McAssey agreed to strike the last sentence in Section 3.0(c) "Expenses" which says "expenses are not included in estimates for services provided to Customer" and to increase the time of payment of invoices to 45 days.

Mr. Leclerc asked for an explanation of Section 5 "Rights in Workproduct".

Mr. McAssey explained that this section will not apply to the work that Brave River is performing under the agreement. They will be transferring the town's website to their servers, providing hosting and making sure it stays up and running. However, if they were to

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develop some application for the town, the agreement states that Brave River retains ownership of the intellectual property for components.

The town has the right to use that system in perpetuity and will receive all source codes.

Mr. Nadeau suggested adding the following language under Section 5: "Customer shall have the right to use in perpetuity without any further cost or expense all software and other workproduct developed or furnished by BRAVE RIVER SOLUTIONS under this Agreement."

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve the agreement for migration of website to new servers and hosting plans with Brave River Solutions, Inc. per the terms and conditions and the schedule for charges and the items that were noted by the Solicitor have been added. Once the changes have been made and the Solicitor has had an opportunity to review the document, the Administrator is authorized to sign the document.

LIZ DEVELOPMENT

Both Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Nadeau noted that the Planning Board voted to pull the \$131,000 bond.

CHERRY BROOK

There was no discussion.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to place on file the minutes of September 8, 2009.

PERSONNEL BOARD MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to place on file the minutes of March 9, May 18, June 11, July 30, August 18, September 14 & 17, 2009.

SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to place on file the minutes of August 19, 2009.

ZONING BOARD MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron and Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to place on file the minutes of August 25, 2009.

VICTUALING LICENSE – TONY'S SNACK BAR

MOTION by Mr. Biron, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to grant a victualing license to Anthony Sousa d/b/a Tony's Snack Bar located at 621 Pound Hill Road.

MODIFICATION OF SEWER PROJECT RE: PHASES II AND III

Mr. Lovett stated there had been discussion at a prior Council meeting of the possibility of doing a small portion of Phases II and III to try to assist residents on Andrews Terrace who need sewers and to incorporate the Branch Village area to promote future business growth.

Mr. Lovett reiterated that this Council is not moving forward with the sewer project against the vote that was taken on July 13th.

Mr. Geremia had offered to work up some numbers at no cost to the town. Incorporating the Branch Village District, Andrews Terrace, Branch Avenue, the former ATP site and four properties along the lower end of St. Paul Street, Mr. Geremia's estimated cost is \$3,760,583. The EDU cost for the modified Phase II project would be \$48,525. If the Town Council elects to remove the cost associated with the roadway improvements, the reduced project cost would be \$2,985,083 with a corresponding EDU cost of \$38,517. The balance of the project cost (\$775,500) for the roadway improvements will be borne by the Town for a twenty year period. If the Town Council elects to blend the modified Phase II project with the completed Phases IA and IB project costs, the EDU cost (without the exclusion

of the roads) is \$27,414.

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If the roadways were excluded from both projects, the total EDU cost would be \$22,006.

Mr. Leclerc stated that in five or six months there will be a second round of federal funding that will become available. At that point he feels the town could reassess the project and whether it could move forward with a modified Phase II.

Mr. Lovett was not in favor of doing the modified plan due to the exorbitant cost nor was he in favor of combining it with the Phase IA and Phase IB residents.

Carol Nasuti questioned if the town had looked into obtaining federal funding to assist in cleaning up the area near the Branch River.

Dr. Benoit responded that Town Planner Robert Ericson is looking into something.

Alan Brodd of 231 Great Road suggested looking into acquiring Brownfields grant money through the Environmental Protection Agency. He added that the Branch Village area being discussed is more of an economic development project and the town should look

for economic development grants.

SEWER ASSESSMENT RATE FOR PHASES IA AND IB

The Sewer Commission brought forth four scenarios for the sewer assessment rate for this district.

Scenario 1 would reflect the total cost of the project minus stimulus money only.

Project Cost \$4,824,940.85 EDU Cost \$20,127.03

Less Stimulus 306,423,46 Annual Pay't. 1,220.69

Final Cost \$4,518,517.39

Scenario 2 relates to the total project cost, minus stimulus funding, minus the cost for the roadway improvements.

Project Cost \$4,824,940.85 EDU Cost \$16,306.90

Less Stimulus 306,423,46 Annual Pay't. 988.94

Less Roadway Costs 857,843.00

Final Cost \$3,660,674.39

Scenario 3 reduces the total project cost by eliminating the design fees for Phases 2 and 3 and roadway improvements, and principal forgiveness stimulus dollars.

Project Cost \$4,824,940.85 EDU Cost \$14,471.34

Less Design Fees 411,856.66 Annual Pay't. 877.67

Less Roadway Costs 857,843.00

Less Stimulus 306,423.46

Final Cost \$3,248,814.86

Scenario 4 reduces the total project cost by eliminating the design fees for Phases 2 and 3 and reduces the project by the principal forgiveness stimulus dollars.

Project Cost \$4,824,940.85 EDU Cost \$18,292.47

Less Design Fee 411,856.66 Annual Pay't. 1,109.42

Less Stimulus 306,423.46

Final Cost \$4,106,658.72

Dr. Benoit stated that the referendum question made no mention of removing repaving costs from the sewer project. He thought it would be an injustice to the town voters if they were charged for the repaving when prior districts received no relief from repaving. Dr. Benoit felt the design fees for Phases II and III should be removed and assessed townwide. Therefore, he feels that Scenario 4 most closely mirrors what was put before voters.

Mr. Zwolenski believed it would be setting a precedent if the repaving costs were backed out for this district.

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In July Mr. Lovett said the road repaving should be backed out. However, the project has since changed because Phase II is not going forward. Had the project continued, more people would be getting the benefit of repaved roads.

Mrs. Hamilton stated that backing out the paving would be approximately a \$15.00 cost per household per year over the next twenty years. Backing out the design fees would be about \$5.00 per household.

Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Zwolenski were not in favor of having users in Phases IA and IB pay the cost of design fees for Phases II and III.

Marc Baillargeon felt the fairest thing to do would be to also extract the resurfacing of state roads from the project as well as the cost of public safety details on state roads.

MOTION by Dr. Benoit and seconded by Mr. Biron to adopt Scenario 4 which reduces the total project cost by eliminating the design fees for Phases II and III and reduces the project by the principal forgiveness stimulus dollars and that the obligation for the design fees of Phases II and III are placed upon the general town. The EDU cost will be \$18,292.47 with an annual payment per EDU user of \$1,109.42.

Roll call: Dr. Benoit - yes; Mr. Biron - yes; Mr. Leclerc - yes; Mr.

Zwolenski – no; and Mr. Lovett – yes. The motion carried 4 to 1.

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: 2009 SEWER DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

Revisions were made to Sections (d), (e), (g) and (j).

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc and seconded by Mr. Zwolenski to extend the tie-in time defined in Section (k) from one year to five years with the understanding that Items 1, 2, 3 and 4 and an inspection section for deficiencies of system that would be performed within the first year and then again within the third year will be included in the ordinance.

Following some concerns stated by Mr. Nadeau, Mr. Leclerc withdrew his motion and Mr. Zwolenski withdrew his second.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted 4 to 1 (Mr. Lovett voted no) on a roll call vote to approve the following ordinance as amended: "It is ordained by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield as follows: That the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, entitled, "Health and Sanitation" be amended to add new Section 8-35.8, entitled "2009 Sewer District Assessment" to read as follows: (a) Established, there is hereby created the 2009 Sewer District which shall encompass all or portions of St. Paul Street, Chapel Street, Colerick Street, Fountain Street, Elizabeth Avenue, Great Road, Mendon Road, Stanley Street, Keough Street, Middle Street, Park Drive, Warren Avenue, West Street, Victory Highway, Country Way,

Ridge Road, Greene Street and Pacheco Drive. The Commission shall assess all or such portion of the Town's share of the capital cost of the wastewater collection system against the estates located in said district as is determined by the Commission to provide special rather than general benefit to such estate, including those structures known as townhouses, condominiums or commercial properties. (b) The assessment program for the 2009 Sewer District will be structured so that each assessment, including principal and interest, shall be due through the twenty-year term of the program. participant can choose to pay the entire remaining principal balance during that period without any interest. In addition, a participant may make other periodic principal payments throughout the term of the bond with no prepayment penalty. (c) The sewer district assessment cost is calculated by establishing the actual total of the project cost (design, construction, construction administration, police details and cost of borrowing) which is divided by the actual number of affected properties contained in the district. (d) The construction cost shall correspond to work performed under contract (Phase 1A: Sanitary Sewer System – Warren Avenue/Park Drive Area and Waterford Area and Phase 1B: Sanitary Sewer System – Greene St. Area and Victory Highway/Dawley Brook Area). with the exception of the final overlay of bituminous

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pavement on the corresponding Town and State roads. The final overlay (bituminous pavement) cost will be paid by the Town's

General Fund at the same interest rate the district will be assessed. These funds (principal and interest) shall be allocated annually in the Town's budget over the life of the Bond. (e) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Commission shall have discretion to defer sewer assessments against parcels of land if the owner of such parcel, within five (5) years of the date before the sewer assessment, has installed a new septic system, provided that such parcel shall remain subject to assessment and shall begin paying such assessment at least five (5) years from the date of initial assessment. If the property is sold during the five (5) year period, the assessment will begin upon the sale of the property. To obtain this approval, the property owner will be required to submit evidence that the septic system has been installed within the five (5) year period. This information shall include, but not be limited to, RIDEM approval and invoice from a certified installer. This request must take place within one (1) year from the notice to connect. If the request is not submitted within that time period, the owner will be subject to assessments as stated (f) The assessment for the residential, within this section. commercial and industrial users shall be as follows: Single Family – 1 EDU charge; Two Family to Four Family - 1.5 EDU charges; Multi-Family (greater than 4 - up to 10 units) - 2 EDU charges; Apartments greater than 10 units - 3 EDU charges; Condominiums -1 EDU charge per condominium unit. Commercial Buildings Up to 5,000 s.f. - 1 EDU charge; 5,001 s.f. to 15,000 s.f. - 2 EDU charges; 15,001 s.f. to 30,000 s.f. - 3 EDU charges; 30,001 s.f. to 100,000 s.f. - 4 EDU charges: Greater than 100,000 s.f. – 5 EDU charges. Restaurants

0 to 100 seats - 1 EDU charge; 101 to 150 seats - 2 EDU charges; Greater than 150 seats - 3 EDU charges. Industrial Based upon actual or projected flow and the Equivalent Dwelling Units. (g) The EDU charge shall be set at the November 2009 Town Council meeting \$18,292.47, to be paid over a period of 20 years at 1.99 percent per annum. (h) Vacant residential or commercial land shall be assessed as one single family residential user (1 EDU). If, at the time the vacant land is developed and those improvements result in greater than a single family residence, the Town will re-assess that property. The additional assessment shall be imposed for a twenty (20) year period. (i) As part of the project cost, the Town will provide one grinder pump unit to each developed parcel at no cost to the dwelling owner. The availability of the grinder pump shall remain in effect up to one year after the project acceptance. The operation of the grinder pump system shall be the responsibility of the dwelling owner. The owner shall provide emergency power to the grinder pump system during power outages. The Town is not responsible to provide emergency power to the grinder pump system(s). For those parcels electing to connect during the first year, they will receive an extended warranty of three (3) additional years (total of five years) for the grinder pumps.

The Town will also pay all costs associated with the normal maintenance for a period of ten (10) years. Maintenance cost associated with abuse shall not be covered. The Superintendent shall determine if the maintenance is due to normal wear and tear or abuse. For those parcels electing to tie in after the one (1) year period, the Town will provide a credit of \$2,793 toward their

assessment at the time the parcel is connected. This credit will reflect the Town's cost to purchase the grinder pump as part of this project. This cost is not reflective of any cost the owner may incur in the direct purchase of the grinder pump. The owner will be responsible to purchase the specified grinder pump directly from the manufacturer at the cost in effect at that time. These costs include but are not limited to: Pump, pump controls delivery cost and all applicable taxes. Those units purchased directly by the owner shall come with a standard two (2) year warranty and no extended warranty or extended maintenance coverage will be provided after the first year's tie-in time period has expired. Regardless, when the property owner connects to the sewers, their assessment shall begin the next fiscal year after the notice to connect has been issued. (i) To provide incentive to connect within the first year, the parcel owner (connecting within the first year) shall be given a credit equal to the permit and inspection costs. The owner shall pay these costs at the time of the installation. The Town will reimburse the owner by crediting that amount in the following year's user fee, shall have all costs associated with permit and inspection fees waived. For those who have

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paid, they will receive a reimbursement within 60 (sixty) days of adoption. (k) Property owners within the project area may petition the Sewer Commission for an extension of the one year tie-in requirements as required in Section 8-27 (Use of Public Sewers

Required, Generally), paragraph b, up to four (4) additional years based on the following: 1. This request must take place within the one year period from the notice to connect; 2. The parcels must have properly functioning onsite wastewater treatment a (cesspools shall be considered substandard and inadequate and will not be granted an extension of time to connect into the sewers); 3. The homeowner shall provide evidence that the on-site wastewater treatment system is operating effectively (this shall be in the form of an inspection conducted by a certified inspector of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management); and 4. The inspections shall be in accordance with RIDEM publication entitled "Septic System Checkup – The Rhode Island Handbook for Inspection". The first inspection shall accompany the owner's request for an extension The inspection form shall be Form 1 in Exhibit B. purpose of this inspection shall determine the need for pumping and identify any deficiencies in the system. This shall be followed within three (3) years from the original request for extension by Inspection Form 2 in Exhibit B. If the owner fails to submit the second form within the time period, or the second inspection finds deficiencies in the system, the homeowner will have sixty (60) days to connect or be subject to a fine of \$100 per day. This ordinance shall take effect on the date of passage and in accordance with the Town Charter."

This is the second reading.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted

unanimously on aye vote at 10:09 P.M. to take a five-minute recess.

The meeting resumed at 10:18 P.M.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION/APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Mr. Biron saw an ad in the local Bargain Buyer recruiting members for a board/committee and thought this might be a good idea for the Charter Review Commission.

Mr. Lovett recalled that one of the members of the last Charter Review Commission had been appointed by the School Committee and he felt they should have one for this commission.

Mr. Lovett submitted the name of Linda Thibault as his appointee.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to continue this matter to the November 2, 2009 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR MODIFICATION TO STIPULATIONS TO ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – VICTORY CROSSING CONDOMINIUM, 261 MAIN ST.

Mr. Nadeau believed that Attorney Joseph Raheb's letter dated September 24, 2009 to Town Planner Robert Ericson effectively withdraws his request for a modification of the stipulations. Mr. Raheb suggests that the property continue to be designated for use

as professional office space and medical laboratories without restriction. In the event someone seeks any other use permitted under the Neighborhood Business Zone, a special use permit should be required.

APPOINTMENTS TO HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION There were no appointments.

APPOINTMENT TO ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE There was no appointment.

AWARD OF RIDEM/EPA OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

Mr. Geremia explained that in 2007 the Department of Environmental Management required that all wastewater treatment facilities and collection systems need an operations and maintenance manual that was due by April of 2009. The Town Administrator asked for and received a

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time extension and the manual is now due in April of 2010. It is a procedural means on how to react to alarms, overflow conditions, dealing with the public and safety issues. Mr. Geremia added that the funding is in this year's sewer department budget.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve Amendment No. 6 Contract for Professional Engineering Services for the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Facilities Plan between the Town of North Smithfield and James J. Geremia & Associates, Inc. (Consultant). This authorizes the Consultant to proceed with the Review and Modification of the Town of North Smithfield's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual for the lump sum of \$9,500. The Town Administrator is authorized to sign the document.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 10:31 P.M. to extend the meeting to 10:45 P.M.

SEWER ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

Mrs. Hamilton stated the town is in the process of receiving applications for this position.

COMMUNICATIONS

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to place on file the following: A.) Animal Control Monthly Report for September 2009; B.) NSF&RS Inc. Monthly Incident Report for September 2009; C.) Resolution Requesting Support for Reconsideration of Additional Cuts to Cities and Towns from the Town of Glocester; D.)Resolutions Opposing Binding Arbitration for Teacher Contracts from the Towns of Hopkinton and

Middletown and the School Committees of East Greenwich, Exeter-West Greenwich, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth and South Kingstown; and E.) Resolution Re: Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month from the Towns/City of Burrillville, Charlestown, East Greenwich and Providence.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Zwolenski, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to enter into executive session at 10:35 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, physical or mental health of a person or persons to discuss a NSF&RS Payment Request Re: Reimbursement of Employee Medical Expenses and pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation to discuss an update on Police Department contract negotiations.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Mr. Biron, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to come out of executive session at 11:14 P.M. and to seal the minutes. No motions were made and no votes were taken.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote at 11:14 P.M. to extend the meeting to 11:15 P.M.

REIMBURSEMENT TO NSF&RS INC. FOR EMPLOYEE MEDICAL

EXPENSES

MOTION by Mr. Biron, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to reimburse NSF&RS Inc. in the amount of \$1,453.03 in regards to an overage of a medical payment cap.

MOTION by Mr. Leclerc, seconded by Dr. Benoit, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 11:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk